

**THE SOCIALIST PARTY**  
**of the United States of America**

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**National Constitution,  
Declaration of Principles**

and

**Congressional Platform**

As Adopted in Convention  
at Detroit, 1934



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**National Headquarters**  
549 Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois



THE SOCIALIST PARTY

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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# **National Constitution** **of the** **Socialist Party**

As Adopted in Convention at Detroit, 1934

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## **ARTICLE I.**

### **Name.**

Sec. 1. The name of this organization shall be the Socialist Party of the United States of America.

## **ARTICLE II.**

### **Organization.**

Sec. 1. The organization of the Socialist Party shall consist of the state and local organizations now in existence, and such state and local organizations as may be hereafter organized by the National Executive Committee or by the state organizations recognized by the National Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE III.

### Membership.

Sec. 1. Every person, resident of the United States, of the age of eighteen (18) years and upward, without discrimination as to sex, race, color or creed, who has severed his connection with all capitalist political parties and political organizations, and subscribes to the principles of the Socialist Party, shall be eligible to membership in the party; except that in communities where the Young People's Socialist League is organized, applicants for membership under twenty-one (21) years shall not be eligible to membership in the party unless they have been members of the Y. P.S.L. for at least two consecutive years.

Members under twenty-one (21) shall not take part in the nominations of candidates for public office.

Sec. 2. Every applicant for membership in the Socialist Party shall receive a copy of the declaration of principles, platform and constitution of the party and shall sign the following application:

"I, the undersigned, recognizing the class struggle, hereby apply for membership in the Socialist Party. In all my political actions while a member of the Socialist Party, I agree to be guided by the constitution, declara-



tion of principles and platform of the party."

Sec. 3. A member moving from one state to another shall be transferred on presentation of his party card, showing him or her to be in good standing. The secretary of the local receiving the transfer shall notify the secretary of the local from which the member transferred, of such transfer.

Sec. 4. Without the consent of the State Executive Committee, no person holding an elective public office by any party or organization other than the Socialist Party shall be eligible to membership in the Socialist Party; nor shall any member of the party, without such consent, accept or hold any appointive public office, honorary or remunerative (teachers' and civil service positions excepted). No party member shall be a candidate for public office without the consent of the city, county or state organization.

Sec. 5. Any member of the Socialist Party who shall aid in the organization of another political party or in the nomination of candidates other than those of the Socialist Party, without the consent of the National Executive Committee, shall be subject to expulsion from the Socialist Party.

## ARTICLE IV. Management.

Sec. 1. The affairs of the Socialist Party shall be administered by National Conventions, the National Executive Committee, its officers and sub-committees.

Sec. 2. The National Executive Committee shall consist of the National Chairman and ten (10) members, not more than two to come from one state, and shall be elected by National Convention of the party. It shall require a majority of the votes cast to elect.

A. Candidates receiving less than a majority of the votes cast shall be balloted for until the full committee is elected.

Sec. 3. The National Convention shall also elect in the same manner, five (5) alternates to the National Executive Committee, from whom vacancies in the committee shall be filled in the order of the vote they received.

Sec. 4. The members of the National Executive Committee and the alternates shall be elected by ballot, each delegate casting the number of votes he is entitled to in proportion to the membership of the state.

Sec. 5. Vacancies in the office of the National Chairman shall be filled by the National Executive Committee from its own membership.

Sec. 6. Three (3) years continuous membership in the party shall be required to qualify for National Chairman, member of the National Executive Committee, or alternate to the National Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE V.

### Duties of the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 1. The National Executive Committee shall assume office immediately after its election, and shall hold office until its successors shall have been elected.

Sec. 2. The Committee may subdivide itself, or appoint other comrades to as many sub-committees as it may find necessary for the proper conduct of the administration, propaganda and organization of the party, including a committee on propaganda among women.

Sec. 3. The National Executive Committee shall represent the party in national and international affairs, call National Conventions, submit to referendum vote of all members all matters required to be so submitted, as hereafter provided.

It shall prepare the agenda, the rules and order of business for the National Convention, and in presidential years prepare or cause to be prepared a draft of a platform to be submitted to the National Convention, and shall submit a report to



the convention covering the activity, finances, membership and the general state of the party, and make such recommendations to the convention as it finds necessary for the best interest of the party.

It shall meet at least once every three (3) months except by unanimous consent, and at least one meeting a year shall be in the National Office. Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

At its meeting in the month of January every year, it shall elect the National Executive Secretary for a term of one year.

The National Executive Committee shall be the custodian of all property of the party.

It shall decide on the location of the headquarters of the party.

It shall act as the Campaign Committee during national campaigns.

It shall engage national organizers, lecturers and other field workers, and members of the National Executive Committee shall be eligible to be employed as such.

The committee shall formulate its own rules of procedure not inconsistent with this constitution.

In the month of January of a year in which a National Convention is to be held, it shall apportion the representation to the



National Convention in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

## ARTICLE VI.

### National Executive Secretary.

Sec. 1. Subject to the supervision of the National Executive Committee, or its subcommittees, the National Executive Secretary shall have charge of the National Office and the employes in the office, and shall supervise the accounts and the activities of the party.

Sec. 2. He shall be elected by the National Executive Committee for a term of one year, and the National Executive Committee shall fix his salary, and he shall be subject to removal by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 3. Three years continuous membership in the party shall be required to qualify for National Executive Secretary.

## ARTICLE VII.

### Conventions.

Sec. 1. National Conventions of the Socialist Party shall be held in every even numbered year, and the representation shall be as follows:

A. In years in which candidates for President and Vice President are to be nominated the convention shall consist of two hundred and fifty (250) delegates; all other conventions, including special con-

ventions, shall consist of one hundred and fifty (150) delegates.

B. The apportionment of delegates to conventions shall be as follows:

One delegate-at-large for each organized state and the remainder to be apportioned in proportion to the average dues paying membership of the party for the preceding calendar year.

Unorganized states shall be entitled to one delegate if their good standing membership is at least fifty (50) percent of the quota required for an additional delegate in organized states.

C. Unorganized states having less than fifty (50) percent of the number of members required to entitle them to one delegate, may send one delegate, but such delegate shall not have a vote in the convention, except on a roll call vote, when each delegate shall cast a vote equal to the number of members the delegate represents in the convention, based on the average membership for the preceding calendar year.

Sec. 2. Delegates to National Conventions shall be elected by a referendum vote of the members of their respective states and must be members in the state from which they are delegates and residents of that state.

Sec. 3. Delegates to the National Convention must have been members of the party for at least two consecutive years

preceding the opening of the convention except in newly organized states or new locals in unorganized states.

Sec. 4. The election of delegates to the National Convention shall, wherever possible, be completed not later than thirty (30) days preceding the convention, and state secretaries shall furnish the National Secretary with a list of accredited delegates immediately after their election.

Sec. 5. The National Chairman shall open the convention and shall preside until the convention is permanently organized by the uncontested delegates on the roll call as prepared by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 6. In a year in which a President and Vice President are to be elected, the Convention shall nominate the candidates for President and Vice President of the United States. It shall require a majority of the votes of the delegates present and voting, to nominate such candidates, and the nominations shall be made after the adoption of the platform.

Sec. 7. Conventions shall adopt the platform and the constitution of the party, and transact such other business as may properly come before the convention, and all acts of the convention shall be final and binding on all officers, committees and



members, unless reversed by a referendum of the party members.

Sec. 8. The National Executive Committee shall formulate the agenda for the party convention. The committee shall issue a call for resolutions and suggestions six (6) months before the convention, allowing one (1) month for filing of same with the committee. After preparing a preliminary agenda based upon the material received at the expiration of the allotted time, the committee shall publish it in the party press, and submit the same to the convention.

Sec. 9. The National Executive Committee shall appoint the speakers to open discussion of the matters of the agenda.

Sec. 10. The National Chairman elected by the convention shall serve without salary, and his power and duties shall be as defined by law. He shall be a member ex-officio of the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 11. The National Executive Committee shall provide for a conference of women party members to be held at the same time and place as the National Convention.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### The Labor and Socialist International.

Sec. 1. The Socialist Party of the United States of America is affiliated with the



## Labor and Socialist International.

Sec. 2. The representatives of the party on the governing bodies of the Labor and Socialist International shall be elected by the National Executive Committee for a term of two years.

Sec. 3. Delegates to International Congress or Conferences shall be elected in the following manner:

A. In the month of January, in years in which an International Congress is to be held, the National Executive Committee shall issue a call to the state organizations to nominate candidates for delegates to the International Congress. Such nominations must be filed with the National Executive Secretary not later than the first day of March.

B. The National Executive Committee shall by ballot elect from those so nominated the number of delegates to which the Socialist Party is entitled in the International Congress.

Sec. 4. The National Executive Committee shall, if possible, pay the traveling expenses of delegates to the International Congress.

Sec. 5. Representatives of the party on the governing board of the Labor and Socialist International and delegates to international congresses and conferences must

be members of the party for at least three (3) consecutive years.

## ARTICLE IX.

### Legislative Representatives.

Sec. 1. Members of Congress elected on the Socialist Party ticket shall consult the National Executive Committee on all important matters, and shall submit reports to the National Executive Committee and the National Conventions.

Sec. 2. In all legislative bodies such as Congress, State Legislatures, Boards of Supervisors or Town Councils, Socialist Party members shall organize into a group separate and apart from all other parties. They shall elect a chairman and in support of all measures definitely declared for in the platforms of the party they shall vote as a unit.

## ARTICLE X.

### State and Local Organizations.

Sec. 1. All members of the Socialist Party residing within the same city, county or town shall constitute a local organization for the purpose of conducting campaigns for the election of candidates for public office and for the general educational and organization work of the party within such city, county, or town.

Sec. 2. Party members within a city, county, or town may also organize Assem-

bly Districts or Ward organizations or other organizations on geographical or political divisions.

Sec. 3. A. All party members and all Socialist Party organizations within each city, county or town shall be subject to the jurisdiction of a central city, county, or town organization and shall cooperate with it in all its political and other practical activities.

B. All city, county or town organizations and sub-divisions thereof, shall be subject to the respective state organizations.

Sec. 4. The formation of state organizations shall be under the direction of the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 5. Organized states shall be such as have at least three (3) locals in three (3) different municipalities with a combined membership of at least seventy-five (75) and which have a state committee and a state secretary, and for the purpose of this constitution the District of Columbia shall be treated as a state. When the membership of any state averages less than 75 for a period of six (6) consecutive months, the National Executive Committee may revoke the charter of that state.

Sec. 6. Any state organization chartered by the National Executive Committee, which does not send in a monthly report on the

blank report form approved by the National Executive Committee for three (3) successive months, and minutes of State Executive Committee Meetings regularly, may be declared unorganized by the National Executive Committee at a regular meeting of that committee after at least one month's notice has been given the State Executive Committee of the delinquent state.

Sec. 7. In organized states the National Office shall transact its business with the state through the state secretary and state committee.

Sec. 8. Locals in adjoining unorganized states may, with the consent of the National Executive Committee, organize a district organization, or the National Executive Committee may, wherever advisable, organize district organizations of locals in adjoining unorganized states. The National Executive Committee may dissolve such district organizations when it deems it advisable.

Sec. 9. Any local organization not reporting to the State Secretary for three (3) successive months may be declared unorganized by the State Executive Committee at a regular meeting after at least one month's notice to the local secretary.

Sec. 10. For the purposes of this constitution wherever the word "local" organization is used it designates a Socialist Party or-



ganization with jurisdiction over a county, city or town, having a charter as a local from the state organization in organized states, or from the National Executive Committee in unorganized states. The term "local," as used in this constitution, does not apply to branch organizations of county, city, or town organizations.

Sec. 11. No new local should be chartered unless it has at least seven (7) applicants for membership in the party.

Sec. 12. The Declaration of Principles and the Platform of the Socialist Party shall be the supreme declaration of the party and all state and local platforms shall conform thereto. No state or local organization shall fuse, combine or compromise with the Democratic, Republican or any other political party whose policies and platform are inconsistent with those of the Socialist Party, nor endorse candidates nominated by such parties or political organizations.

Sec. 13. State organizations of the party may cooperate with organizations of Labor and working farmers, within their state in independent political action, but such co-operation must in all cases be on the following conditions:

A. The term "independent political action" as herein employed shall be understood to mean the nomination and election of candidates by a party of workers and

farmers, organized in express opposition to the political parties supporting capitalism and excluding participation in the primaries of such parties as well as voting for their candidates in public elections.

B. The political program and platform adopted for such joint political action shall not be inconsistent with the platform and principles of the Socialist Party.

C. State or local organizations of the party desiring to cooperate with political organizations of labor and working farmers shall first get the approval of the National Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE XI.

### Dues

Sec. 1. The dues to be paid by the members of the Socialist Party to the National Office shall be as follows:

A. In organized states ten (10) cents a month (\$1.20 a year).

B. Unorganized states twenty and five-sixth (20-5/6) cents a month (\$2.50 a year).

C. Members at large paying dues to the National Office thirty (30) cents a month (\$3.60 a year).

Sec. 2. The National Executive Committee shall issue stamps to be sold to the state organizations in organized states, and to locals in the unorganized states and to members at large, at the above prices.

Sec. 3. The National Executive Committee shall also issue dual stamps for husband and wife, if both are members of the party, which shall be sold at the price of the regular stamp.

Sec. 4. The National Executive Committee shall also issue exempt stamps to be sold to the state and local organizations for one cent for each exempt stamp issued to state organizations, which should pass the charge on to the local organizations. No member shall be entitled to receive more than three exempt stamps at one time, and these stamps shall be used only for the current month and the two immediately preceding months.

Sec. 5. The National Executive Committee shall also print and issue a special stamp for members of the party who are also members of the Y.P.S.L. These stamps are to be sold to the state and local organizations at the rate of half the price of the regular stamps.

Sec. 6. State and local organizations shall fix the price for monthly dues stamps, but in no case shall the dues exceed thirty (30) cents by the state organizations, or fifty (50) cents by the local organizations.

Sec. 7. Of the dues so collected by the National Office, eight (8) cents shall go into the general fund to be used for general party purposes; one (1) cent a month shall



be set aside in a special fund to cover expenses of delegates to National Conventions; one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) cent a month for special work to carry on activities among youth and one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) cent for activities among women.

Sec. 8. Members in arrears with their dues for three (3) months or more shall be suspended and shall not be entitled to the privileges of membership.

## ARTICLE XII.

### Referendums.

Sec. 1. The National Executive Committee and the National Executive Secretary shall submit to a referendum vote of the members:

A. Any matter acted upon by a National Convention when requested to do so by a signed petition of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the delegates attending the Convention. Such petition must be submitted to the National Executive Committee within three (3) days after the adjournment of the convention. In case of such petition to submit action of the convention to a referendum vote of the members, the signers may submit an alternative proposition for a vote, provided, however, that such alternative proposition was offered to the convention.

B. Any question, motion or resolution if submitted to the National Executive



Committee and endorsed by at least five (5) locals in three (3) different states having a total membership of twenty (20) percent of the total membership of the party.

C. The number of members of the locals is to be ascertained from the respective state secretaries.

Sec. 2. Motions to submit matters to a referendum shall be printed in the party press, and shall be open for seconds or indorsements for a period of three (3) months. If there are not sufficient seconds or indorsements at the expiration of three (3) months, the matter shall be dropped and cannot be raised again for a period of six (6) months.

Sec. 3. Whenever a National Convention is to be held within six (6) months, no question shall be submitted to a referendum vote except a motion to postpone the convention.

Sec. 4. A. The term locals, as used in this article, shall apply to the unit organization in a city or county, and does not apply to branches or sub-divisions of a city or county organization.

B. The term membership shall mean the average dues paying members based on the dues stamps bought by the local for the preceding calendar year.

Sec. 5. Referendums shall be submitted without preamble; comment not to exceed

200 words both for and against any proposition may accompany the motion.

Sec. 6. The return of the vote on any referendum must be in the National Office not later than 75 days from the date ballots were mailed by the National Office.

Sec. 7. Whenever a motion, resolution or an amendment has been regularly initiated and passed upon by the party membership, another motion that conflicts with the same shall not be considered for at least one year.

Sec. 8. (A) Only members of the Socialist Party who have been members of the Socialist Party for at least six months and in good standing can vote on referendums.

(B) In preparing a ballot for referendum there shall be a line for the member to state his length of membership in the party.

## ARTICLE XIII.

### Miscellaneous Regulations.

Sec. 1. Five years continuous membership in the party shall be required to qualify for candidates for President and Vice President.

Sec. 2. A. Two years continuous membership shall be required to qualify for nomination as candidate for other public office.

B. The National Executive Commit-

tee or state committees may modify the duration of membership in special cases on application by the local party organization.

Sec. 3. Salaried officials and paid employes of the party shall not be eligible to serve on the governing body which elects or employs them and which fixes their salaries, but this shall not be interpreted to prevent members of the National Executive Committee from acting as temporary organizers and receiving compensation for their services.

## ARTICLE XIV.

### Young People's Socialist League.

Sec. 1. The National Executive Committee shall establish in the National Office a Young People's Department, which shall, under the direction of the National Executive Committee and the National Executive Secretary, supervise the organization and activities of the Young People's Socialist League.

Sec. 2. The National Executive Committee shall elect the National Secretary of the Young People's Socialist League for a term of one year and fix his salary.

Sec. 3. They shall prepare rules for the guidance of the secretary and establish a dues paying system suitable for the organization.

Sec. 4. They shall elect a sub-committee



to work with and assist the secretary in planning and performing his duties; the majority of such committee shall consist of party members.

Sec. 5. The Young People's Socialist League shall be considered part of the Socialist Party.

Sec. 6. State and local organizations shall have a committee on the Young People's Socialist League, and shall assist in the organization of Young People's Socialist League circles, cooperate with the Young People's Socialist League, and draw them in to do, and train them for, active work in the party.

Sec. 7. Whenever circles of the Young People's Socialist League are organized, the state and local organizations shall appoint a director on the supervising committee of the Young People's Socialist League, and the Young People's Socialist League shall have fraternal representation on state and local committees.

Sec. 8. State and local organizations shall set aside part of the dues paid by members for a fund to assist the Young People's Socialist League in its activities and work.

Sec. 9. The Young People's Socialist League shall have a fraternal delegate at the National Conventions of the party, such delegate to have a voice but no vote.



## ARTICLE XV.

### Foreign Language Organizations.

Sec. 1. Five or more branches of the Socialist Party conducting their business in any other language than English shall have the right to form a National Federation under the supervision of the National Executive Committee and the National Executive Secretary.

Sec. 2. National Language Federations shall have the right to elect an officer known as Translator-Secretary, who shall be conversant with the language of his Federation as well as the English language, and whose duty it shall be to serve as a medium of communication between his Federation and the National Organization of the party.

Sec. 3. Branches of Language Federations shall be an integral part of the state and local organizations and shall be governed by the constitution, by-laws and rules of the state and local organizations, and the Language Federation shall not organize branches except with the consent and approval of the state and local organizations.

Sec. 4. A. The Language Federations shall buy dues stamps from the National Office of the Socialist Party paying the same price as the state organizations.

B. The secretaries of the Language Federation shall, not later than the fifth day of each month submit to the National Office and the state and local organizations monthly reports of the dues stamps sold to the local and branches of locals the preceding month. They shall remit to the state organization, or in unorganized states to the local organizations, an amount equal to one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) the sum paid National Office for due stamps.

C. Language Federations may fix such additional dues as they see fit, but should not exceed fifty (50) cents a month.

Sec. 5. A Language Federation, if its constitution so provides may, with the approval of the National Executive Committee, exclude for cause any of the branches or locals affiliated with it. Such excluded locals and branches shall lose only the rights and privileges dependent upon affiliation with the Federation. They shall continue to be an integral part of the county and state organizations, until such time as their exclusion has been approved by such county and state organizations.

Sec. 6. The Socialist Party shall not recognize more than one Federation of the same language.

A. Each Language Federation shall be entitled to elect one fraternal delegate to

the National Convention of the party,  
such delegates to have a voice but no vote.

**Enacting Clause.**

This constitution shall take effect September 1, 1934.

# **Declaration of Principles**

of the

## **Socialist Party**

As Adopted in Convention at Detroit  
and Approved by Referendum, 1934

**T**HE SOCIALIST PARTY is the party of the workers, regardless of race, color or creed. In mill and mine, shop and farm, office and school, the workers can assert their united power, and through the Socialist Party establish a cooperative commonwealth forever free from human exploitation and class rule.

If the workers delay and drift, they will prolong the period of their enslavement to a decadent capitalism. This uncreative, wasteful and brutally oppressive social system takes jobs away and turn millions of would-be producers into the streets with no assurance that ever again they may become employed—financiers, for their own selfish gain, control markets and prices and autocratically regulate the extension or withdrawal of credit. Those who utilize



the profit motive for their own advantage restrict the workers' standard of living save where labor has aggressively organized and struggled energetically for its rights—and even then deny to the working class the abundance which the modern productive process is technically capable of bestowing upon those willing to labor for the common good. Capitalism invades the peace of farming areas with the all-pervasive danger of insecurity and in many regions with bitter destitution. Throughout the land it attacks the American home and brands countless children with the pinch of want.

The privileged minority who benefit from exploitation of the multitude are not content with owning the mechanisms of production and distribution, which perpetuates their property power; they control the press, radio, and motion picture; they starve and poison the educational system; they dominate our courts, our municipalities, our state legislative assemblies, and our national government; for the extension of their economic domain they expose to the appalling menace of new imperialist wars the innocent youth in our own and other countries, on whom they will lay the ruthless clutch of conscription and send to fight those wars. To confuse the voting masses and retain their authority, they maintain great political parties whose appeal fluc-

tuates between frank reaction and fictitious liberalism, neither of which offers to the workers any substantial or enduring program for the acquisition of their birth-right.

ONLY THOSE who labor with hand and brain, in their concerted might, can overthrow this monstrous system and replace it with a Socialist order. Whenever they will, they can transfer to the people the ownership of industry, land, finance and natural resources including water power, and operate these possessions of the Socialist commonwealth for the material and cultural enrichment of all—beginning with the large scale industries of a public character such as banking, insurance, mining, transportation, communication, and the trustified industries, and extending the process rapidly to the point where rent, interest, and profit are abolished.

The Socialization of industry as Socialists conceive it, however, means more than simple government ownership—it involves the opposite of irresponsible bureaucracy, and includes democratic administration through the elected and responsible representatives of the workers in the respective industries and of the workers as a whole.

The Socialist Party advocates the es-

tablishment of a system of co-operative and publicly owned and managed warehouses, markets and credits, to promote direct dealing between farmers and city consumers at the cost of the service in their mutual interests, thus reducing the cost of living, assuring farmers a just compensation for their labor, and enabling them to escape from the twin curses of tenantry and mortgaged serfdom.

Workers of town and country must be strongly organized on economic as well as on political lines. The ceaseless struggle of the labor unions and farm organizations, and the constructive work of bona fide co-operative societies, are necessary, not only for the immediate defense and betterment of the condition of the producing class, but also to equip producers with the understanding and self-discipline required for the efficient administration of the industries of which they are to win control.

It is the duty of every Socialist wage worker to be a loyal and active member of the union in his industry or trade, and to strive for the strengthening and solidifying of the trade union movement. It is the duty and privilege of the Socialist press to aid the unions in their struggles for better wages, increased leisure, and better conditions of employment.



THE SOCIALIST PARTY, while standing for the interests of the American people, recognizes that the well-being of any one nation is inextricably interwoven with that of every other. To divisive capitalist nationalism it opposes international workers' solidarity; to the Socialist parties of other countries it extends full support in their struggles, uniting with them in the common effort to build a world-wide federation of Socialist republics.

The Socialist Party is opposed to militarism, imperialism, and war. It proposes to eradicate the perpetual economic warfare of capitalism the fruit of which is international conflict. War cannot be tolerated by Socialists, or preparedness for war. They will unitedly seek to develop trustworthy working class instruments for the peaceable settlement of international disputes and conflicts. They will seek to eliminate military training from schools, colleges and camps. They will oppose military reviews, displays and expenditures, whether for direct war preparedness or for militaristic propaganda, both in wartime and in peacetime. They will loyally support, in the tragic event of war, any of their comrades who for anti-war activities not in contravention of Socialist principles, or for refusal to perform war service, come into conflict with public opinion or the law.



Moreover, recognizing the suicidal nature of modern combat and the incalculable train of wars' consequences which rest most heavily upon the working class, they will refuse collectively to sanction or support any international war; they will, on the contrary, by agitation and opposition do their best not to be broken up by the war, but to break up the war. They will meet war and the detailed plans for war already mapped out by the war-making arms of the government, by massed war resistance, organized so far as practicable in a general strike of labor unions and professional groups in a united effort to make the waging of war a practical impossibility and to convert the capitalist war crisis into a victory for Socialism.

**I**N ITS STRUGGLE for a new society, the Socialist Party seeks to attain its objective by peaceful and orderly means. Recognizing the increasing resort by a crumbling capitalist order to Fascism to preserve its integrity and dominance, the Socialist Party intends not to be deceived by Fascist propaganda nor overwhelmed by Fascist force. It will do all in its power to fight Fascism of every kind all the time and everywhere in the world, until Fascism is dead. It will rely on the organization of a disciplined labor movement. Its methods

may include a recourse to a general strike which will not merely serve as a defense against Fascist counter-revolution but will carry the revolutionary struggle into the camp of the enemy.

The Socialist Party proclaims anew its faith in economic and political democracy. It unhesitatingly applies itself to the task of replacing the bogus democracy of capitalist parliamentarism by a genuine workers' democracy. Capitalism is doomed. If it can be superseded by majority vote, the Socialist Party will rejoice. If the crisis comes through the denial of majority rights after the electorate has given us a mandate we shall not hesitate to crush by our labor solidarity the reckless forces of reaction and to consolidate the Socialist state. If the capitalist system should collapse in a general chaos and confusion, which cannot permit of orderly procedure, the Socialist Party, whether or not in such a case it is a majority, will not shrink from the responsibility of organizing and maintaining a government under the rule of the producing masses. True democracy is a worthy means to progress; but true democracy must be created by the workers of the world.

# **Congressional Platform**

## **of the**

# **Socialist Party, 1934**

As Adopted in Convention at Detroit, June 3.

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In a world of continued crisis it is not necessary to prove the breakdown of the capitalist system.

In America alone there are more than 10,000,000 unemployed.

The government seeks to stabilize capitalism by subsidizing scarcity. In our so-called "recovery" wages lag behind profits. Military expenditures are the highest in history save in the midst of war.

### **"One Sole Purpose"**

The Socialist party, therefore, in this congressional campaign, commits itself and all candidates anew to the one sole purpose of establishing the cooperative commonwealth, the economic foundation of which is social ownership and management for use and not profit. Only as we establish



this new order and abolish the predatory society can we share the abundance which machinery makes possible. For this high end we summon workers with hand and brain, of every race, creed and color, in city and country, to unite with us to achieve power to transform a system which has proved itself the mother of poverty and war.

We, and all whom we may nominate, are pledged to work unceasingly for the orderly transfer of banks and public utilities, natural resources and key industries to social ownership and democratic management. We and all whom we may nominate are pledged to vote against war and armaments.

### **"To Relieve the Suffering"**

Until the means of production and distribution are dedicated to the welfare of the producers of wealth instead of to the profit of a small group of owners, poverty, insecurity and wars will continue as a natural consequences of the economic contradictions which are inherent to the capitalist system. To abolish those and the many other ills which afflict society today we must abolish their cause.

To relieve the suffering of the great mass of people, pending the realization of the Socialist cooperative commonwealth, and not to bolster up and perpetuate the capitalist private profit system, we pledge ourselves



to work for legislation which will give to the dispossessed and unemployed of America a living standard on a level consistent with the great productive possibilities of American industry, financing all relief measures by tax levies upon large inheritances and the incomes of those who profit from the ownership of industry and the control of finance.

### **"Organize for Power"**

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